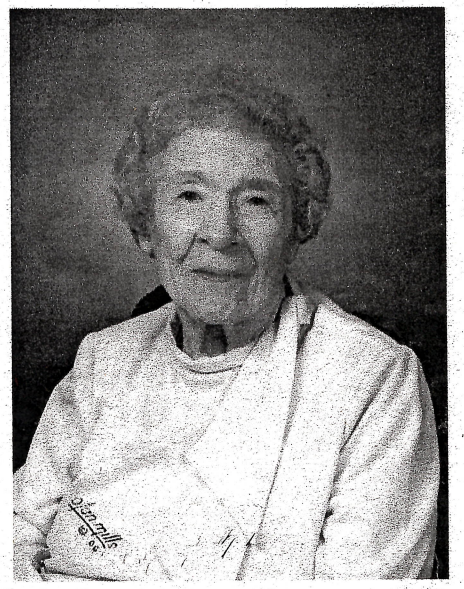

Mary Cecelia Borgman
100 years young

Born on November 10, 1908, the fifth child of Francis and Cecelia Korte Borgman, Mary C. Borgman grew up in Borgman, West Virginia, with her three brothers, Lawrence, James, and Leo, and her three sisters, Regina, Anne, and Madalyn, all of whom are now deceased.

As a descendent of three (Arns, Korte, Borgman) of the four original families to settle in that area, and still living in the house her father built in 1903, Mary has dedicated much time and effort to researching and preserving the family's history.

Although stricken with polio at age two and a half, Mary has never let it prevent her from achieving the goals she set for herself. A striking example of her tenacity involves the purchase of her first car in 1935. Unable to use the clutch with her foot, Mary designed and had installed a lever device that allowed her to use the clutch with her hand.

As an elementary student Mary attended "Church School", a rural two-room school at Borgman, followed by attendance and graduation from Kingwood High School in 1927.

After high school, Mary attended Fairmont Business College and Shepherd College. When she had accumulated enough credits for a teaching certificate, she returned to the school of her youth, "Church School," in 1931, where she taught children in the primary grades until her retirement in 1970. Mary received an AB degree from Shepherd College, where she was a member of the National Educators' Honorary Society – Kappa Delta Pi.

As a life-long, dedicated member of St. Joseph's Church, Mary played the organ, taught religious education classes and was a member of the Altar Sodality.

Mary created many original oil paintings, including one of the stone bridge at Sharpsburg. Today, she enjoys listening to classical music, reading, praying, and sharing her stories with friends and relatives. Although Mary is the last survivor of her generation, she has many loving nieces and nephews.